

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 18, 2006 has been received and reviewed. Claims 1-19 and 29 have been canceled, and claims 45-53 have been added. The pending claims are claims 20-28 and 30-53. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 3-19 have been canceled.

New claim 45 is original claim 5 rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New claims 46-48 are original claims 6-8 rewritten to ultimately depend from new independent claim 45.

New claim 49 is original claim 11 rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New claims 50-51 are original claims 12-13 rewritten to ultimately depend from new independent claim 49.

New claim 52 is original claim 18 rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New claim 53 is original claim 19 rewritten to depend from new independent claim 52.

No new matter was added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge that claims 20-28 and 30-44 have been allowed.

Further, Applicants acknowledge that claims 5-8, 11-13, and 18-19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have added new claims 45-53, which include the objected to claims rewritten in allowable form. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

Claims 1, 3-4, 9-10, and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Parker (U.S. Patent No. 4,897,771). Applicants traverse this rejection.

However, to further move this case towards issuance, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 3-4, 9-10, and 14-17, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Applicants reserve the right to file claims to the subject matter of claims 1, 3-4, 9-10, and 14-17 in subsequently-filed continuation applications.

Summary

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections are respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

January 18, 2007

Date

By: /Jay R. Pralle/

Jay R. Pralle, Reg. No.: 52,131

Telephone No.: 651-733-6750

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833